

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-14 (*canceled*).

15. (*currently amended*) A method of identifying compounds that modulate protease EOS ~~protein~~ activity, comprising:

- (a) combining a modulator of protease EOS ~~protein~~ activity, protease EOS ~~protein~~ having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ.ID NO.7 or SEQ.ID NO.9, and a labeled substrate; and
- (b) measuring a change in the labeled substrate.

16. (*currently amended*) The method of claim 15 wherein the labeled substrate is selected from the group consisting of fluorogenic, ~~colorimetric~~ colorimetric, radiometric, and fluorescent resonance energy transfer (FRET) substrates.

Claims 16-27 (*canceled*).

28. (*new*) The method of claim 15 wherein the protease EOS has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ.ID NO.7.

29. (*new*) The method of claim 15 wherein the protease EOS has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ.ID NO.9.